

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00810 201527Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8492
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USNATO
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, IC
SUBJECT: ELECTION WATCH: FONMIN REITERATES PROGRESSIVE PARTY
POLICY RE NATO BASE

REF: (A) REYKJAVIK 0762 (DTG 071220Z JUN 78) NOTAL
(B) REYKJAVIK 0406 (DTG 231322Z MAR 78) NOTAL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:
1. IN JUNE 17 INTERVIEW IN PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PP) DAILY
TIMINN, FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON RESTATED PARTY POLICY RE
ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE (IDF) IN ATTEMPT TO DISTINGUISH IT FROM
MORE HARDLINE AND SPECIFIC GOI POLICY MADE DURING 1971-74 LEFT
GOVERNMENT. AGUSTSSON NOTED THAT WHEN PP PARTICIPATED IN
DECISION CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF IDF, ICELANDIC CONTROL
OF BASE AND RADAR SITES, AND LIMITING KEFLAVIK BASE PERSONNEL
TO NON-MILITARY TECHNICIANS, PARTY WAS PART OF COALITION
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WITH PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE AND OGRANIZATION OF LIBERALS AND
LEFTISTS. AGUSTSSON THEN REPEATED RATHER GENERALIZED PP
POLICY STATEMENT (REF B) CITING THAT IN CONFORMANCE
WITH GOI RESERVATIONS AT TIME OF ADHERENCE TO NATO AGREEMENT
(PROVIDING THAT NO MILITARY FORCES WOULD BE STATIONED IN
ICELAND DURING PEACETIME), PARTY WOULD "WORK TOWARD"
DEPARTURE OF IDF.

2. FONMIN'S REMARKS CAME SEVERAL DAYS AFTER TELEVISION QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION IN WHICH HE SAID THAT IF HE CONTINUED IN PRESENT JOB, HE WOULD AGAIN TAKE NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF BASING AGREEMENT TO WASHINGTON IF SUCH WERE GOI DECISION. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD ACT AS GOOD PUBLIC SERVANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY GOVERNMENT DECISION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. AS NOTED REF (A), AGUSTSSON, AS CHIEF PP SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IS TRYING TO MAINTAIN CAREFUL BALANCE BETWEEN PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS OF BASE WITHIN PARTY. AFTER INDEPENDENCE PARTY (IP) ATTACKS ON PP POSITION RE BASE DURING 1971-74 GOVERNMENT, AGUSTSSON PROBABLY FELT IT NECESSARY TO REITERATE PARTY'S "MIDDLE-OF-ROAD" STANCE. IP CRITICISM IS NOT LIKELY TO DIMINISH ON THIS POINT, HOWEVER, AND ALREADY IP-AFFILIATED NEWSPAPER VISIR MOCKED PP'S "CLARIFIED" POSITION SAYING THAT IT MEANS IDF WILL EITHER REMAIN OR GO IF PP CONTINUES IN OFFICE. CHRISTENSEN

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